(3) The Cochin Cultivating Verumpattamdars Bill

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Before moving the Bill standing in my name, I have to make a few preliminary remarks. I don't claim the ownership of the Bill at all. If I may not be accused of flaggerism, I may say it belongs entirely to the former Advocate-General, Mr. C. A. Kunjunny Raja. Since the Government brought this Bill and subsequently dropped it for some reason or other, I think it will be proper for me to take it up, so that the whole House may be guided and reconsider the question. Now that the Government has brought a Verumpattamdars Bill, the whole aspect of the question has changed. The only guidance I want from this House after one or two explanations is this, that is, as to what I should do in this particular matter today. The position is this. So far as this Bill is concerned, there is provision for fixing fair rent. There are also provisions for eviction in particular cases. The chief of the criticisms levelled against the present Bill brought by the Government are that there is no provision for fixing of fair rent. Secondly, there is no chance for the landlord to get any portion of the land, once it is fixed. Thirdly, the period fixed for penal clause being applied is very short. All these criticisms are met with by this Bill. No doubt, I should wait for another opportunity and move the Bill from this stage if only I let go the present opportunity. Therefore, the House will give me a guidance. I am prepared to abide by it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: May I know what is your objection is in moving all these questions in the Select Committe? The question as to what should be the fair rent should be considered. The existing rent is the fair rent. You can, in the light of the discussions, move these questions in the Select Committee.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: If that is the opinion of the House, I don't move it. I don't also withdraw it.

(4) The Cochin Agriculturist Debtors' Protection Bill

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I do not move for the introduction of the Cochin Agriculturist Debtors' Protection Bill. I shall move it on a future occasion.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION No. 46

Revision of pay and allowances of the subordinate officers in the Anchal Department

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Yesterday, I spoke about the necessity to revise the pay of the anchal masters and clerks in the Anchal Department. Today, I wish to complete my speech by requesting the Government to very seriously consider about the revision of the pay of the anchal peons and the mail runners. I place this motion for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: On a point of order. Without reference to the previous speaker, I wish to know whether a speech once begun in Malayalam can be concluded in English.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: There have been several occasions.

Mr. President: No objection.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: I second the motion.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I am very sorry that Government do not find their way to accept the recommendation immediately. This calls for a general revision of pay of the Anchal Staff. In the last revision which was 11 years ago, all the departments have been considered together, and orders were passed after very careful consideration. This House itself has had occasion to discuss all the varied and inter-related problems connected with the revision of salary in the various departments, and the House knows also what a laborious process it was to take up general revision. Of course, the Government find it rather difficult to take up questions like this in any piecemeal fashion If we have to take up a revision of pay of subordinates in one department, naturally we have to consider the case of persons similarly situated in the other departments as well. That would mean that we have to make more or less an elaborate survey of the situation and see how the grades stand, how by granting a revision in one department, the case of the others will be affected, and all such similar questions. Government doubt very much whether this will be an opportune time to take up the question of a general revision. At the time of the last revision, the question was first taken up in the year 1102 or 1103 and final orders could be passed only in 1106 or 1107. It took very nearly four years for a general survey of that kind to be undertaken. That was not due to the apathy of the Government. This House is fully awere of the laborious process a committee appointed by this House put itself to and after that several resolutions were moved in quick succession here and almost one session was devoted to that. And Government had to appoint a special officer

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to look into all the records the findings of the committee, the evidence they had taken, resolutions that were passed here and all the discussions that took place in the matter and then frame a report. That had to be checked by the Secretary and the Diwan and final orders were passed. And when final orders were passed, they were found to be quite unsatisfactory and a good deal of criticism was provoked and much unpleasantness created.

Now, this is hardly the time to enter upon such a procedure. Therefore, I would suggest that this House should not put the Government to an almost apparently false position of simply declaring that they are not sympathetic towards the low-paid staff which in fact is not the case. I say Government are really sympathetic towards them. But there are practical difficulties standing in the way. Government cannot take up the question of one department alone. Of course, on account of the rise in the price of commodities some difficulty has been caused. And to meet that, we have introduced the system of dearness allowance. Government will absolutely have no objection to revise this allowance from time to time. As a matter of fact, we are even doing it now. When they find that the allowance granted is unfair, Government will be very willing to revise the rate and increase the allowance. If a procedure like that is followed, at least till the present war is over, there will be uniformity and there will not be any complaint of invidious distinctions and things of that kind. Therefore, what I would suggest to the Hon'ble member is that he must withdraw this resolution on the assurance of the Government that they would consider the question of revising the dearness allowance that has been granted to low-paid staff from time to time. But a general revision of the salary at this stage is not possible. Moreover, even among the low-paid staff there are several cadres. It will be much more appropriate to leave it to the Government to revise the dearness allowance from time to time. Then there will be uniformity and there will be no complaint of invidious distinctions being made. After the war is over, and when times get to normal, we will take up the question of general revision if the House is so pleased. That will be the more appropriate procedure to adopt rather than to move a resolution to revise the pay with reference to one department alone.

Mr. President: Speaking on this resolution, I would also remind the Hon'ble mover that it was in February this year that the Government granted dearness allowance to the low-paid Government servants to take effect from December. We are now carefully watching the price of foodstuffs and the rise in the index figures at various centres and if justified Government will not hesitate to increase the dearness allowance paid to the low-paid staff in every department, regard being had to the financial position in which we are placed.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, the case of the Anchal Department is different. On a point of information, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Secretary whether the Superintendent of Registration and Anchal did not recommend some two or 3 years back to revise their salary, after stopping the stamp commission which they were getting at the rate of 2½ per cent from the year 1107 and whether as a result of that recommendation the stamp commission was stopped, leaving alone the question of revising their pay. When the stamp commission was stopped, these poor people were given false hopes that their pay would be revised but that has not been done so far. May I know whether the Government would now be pleased to consider the question of reviving the stamp commission paid to these poor people, in case they are not in favour of revising their pay?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* That is a different question altogether. If it is the Hon'ble member's intention that the Government should reconsider the question of reviving the stamp commission, of course, Government will have no objection to examine that.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* In view of the Diwan-President's statement, I may say that if the Government is going to consider that, at least for the time being, I do not mean to press this resolution. In the case of the low-paid menials some revision should be made.

Resolution by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION No. 47

Constituting the Kallur Vadakkummuri Village into a Separate Panchayat

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I move that "*This Council recommends to the Government that the Kallur Vadakkummuri village in the Mukundapuram Taluk be constituted a separate Panchayat.*"

This is a village which forms part of the Adur Panchayat. It has a population of 10,000 and for the more efficient working of the Panchayats and for the purpose of inculcating into the minds of the people the principles of self-Government, it is better to bifurcate this Adur

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